



## **LIVESTOCK**

### ***CATTLE AND CALVES***

New Mexico's inventory of all cattle and calves as of January 1, 2010, was 1,550,000 head, an increase of 10,000 from 2009. Milk cow inventory decreased from 336,000 to 318,000 head. Dairy producers retained 145,000 heifers for replacement. Beef cow inventory increased 3.7 percent to 502,000 head. Ranchers held 95,000 heifers for beef cow replacement. The number of steers weighing 500 pounds or more decreased to 130,000 head. Bull inventory this year came in at 40,000 head. Calves on hand weighing less than 500 pounds, including both beef and dairy calves, totaled 230,000 head. The 2009 calf crop was estimated at 610,000 head. Gross income from cattle and calves totaled \$ 1,011 million in 2009, up slightly from the previous year.

### ***RANGE AND PASTURE FEED 2009***

The reporting of range and pasture conditions began in mid-march. Conditions were reported at 11 percent very poor; 34 percent poor; 38 percent fair; 16 percent good, and 1 percent excellent with conditions staying fairly consistent through the months of March and April. Ranchers were hauling water, calving, and supplemental feeding. Range conditions were excessively dry as little to no precipitation was seen. Winter temperatures returned during late April, freezing any pasture grass. Soil moisture at mid-month May was reported at only 11 percent leaving range and pasture conditions mostly poor and fair. Ranchers were continuing supplemental feeding and preparing to cull herds in the further absence of rain. Light rains were seen in late May and early June, but moisture was still mostly inadequate. Moisture began to increase during mid-June, greening up pastures slightly. July brought moderate rain but more was needed to reach adequate moisture percentages.

Ranchers continued hauling water and heavy supplemental feeding. August rains were significant, increasing soil moisture to mostly adequate and rangelands to mostly fair condition. September temperatures were still hot with no more rain, forcing ranchers to ship cattle off early. However, moisture rose again in late September to 50 percent adequate. As of early October, ranchers were preparing to market calves. Temperatures were finally starting to cool down and ranchers were contracting to buy winter feed.

### ***DAIRY***

Beginning inventory of milk cows was 318,000 head on January 1, 2010, down 5 percent from a year earlier. The average number during 2009 was 325,000. Milk production was up slightly from 7.87 billion pounds in 2008 to 7.90 billion pounds in 2009. Cash receipts from marketing's decreased 24 percent from the previous year. New Mexico ended the year ranked ninth in the nation in milk production and ninth overall in the number of milk cows.

### ***SHEEP AND LAMBS***

Sheep and lamb inventory as of January 1, 2010, totaled 120,000 head, remaining constant with the 2009 inventory. The number of breeding sheep for 2010 was 105,000 head, an increase of 2,000 head from 2009. Market sheep and lambs decreased 2,000 head from the previous year to 15,000 head. The 2009 lamb crop increased 1,000 head from 2008 to 66,000 lambs. State level producer gross income dropped slightly from 5.6 million in 2008 to 5.5 million in 2009. In 2009 wool was sheared from 100,000 sheep and lambs, producing 730,000 pounds. The value of wool produced decreased to 730 thousand as the average price of wool dropped \$1.70 per pound to \$1.00 per pound.